



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
IOWA TASK FORCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN**

Mission: Promoting innovative female responsive techniques through education and advocacy

MINUTES OF ELECTRONIC MEETING

May 21, 2020

Present: Jennifer Tibbetts, Chair; Lori Rinehart; Andrea Dencklau; Stephanie Hernandez; Bethany Kohoutek; Danielle Masten

Staff: Steve Michael; Kathy Nesteby; Dave Kuker; Scott Musel; Julie Rinker; Reeva Neighbors, SIYAC

Others: Wayne Ford

Introductions/Announcements

Jennifer Tibbetts, Chair, welcomed those in attendance at 10:08 a.m. A quorum was not present.

JJAC/CJJP/COVID Update

- Legislative issues

Steve Michael reported the following:

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all staff continue to work from home.
- Grants—Through a partnership with the Justice Research & Statistics Association (JRSA) on a grant from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), CJJP will provide data to develop a standardized definition of recidivism to identify important factors in reoffending. Separately, a grant application with the federal Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) related to girls in the juvenile justice system will be discussed later.
- Staffing—Taylor Barry, NYTD (National Youth in Transition Database) Coordinator, has taken employment outside of the state. Kayla Powell has been hired to fill the position. The position has been modified somewhat. Duties now include NYTD and the coordination of DHR's youth development programs and a statewide focus on positive youth development.

Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System grant

Kathy Nesteby reviewed the abstract for the grant application that was included in the meeting packet. The purpose is to reduce risk factors, implement programs and develop targeted curriculum for girls in the juvenile justice system, provide training, and conduct program evaluation using the SPEP tool. The application includes rollout and training on the new "Healing Justice" protocol publication on gender responsive approaches. There is support for the grant components by Juvenile Court Services.

The grant application is due June 1 and is \$425,000 over three years. If awarded, the effort would begin October 1. Award announcements are usually made in late September.

Michael suggested that an alternative to the above abstract would be to develop a model diversion program for girls using the three years for planning and implementation.

Tibbetts noted the importance to conduct provider training on a statewide basis. She added that it has been quite awhile since any training was conducted. She thought the training should come first, followed by a future funding opportunity to implement a pre-charge diversion program for girls.

Michael responded that the data report on girls shows a large number enter the system on simple misdemeanors. He began thinking of ways to divert them and thought it would be beneficial to target an urban area where a substantial number of girls enter the system. A partnership could be established with the DMC pre-charge diversion effort and a program developed specifically for girls. The first year would be training, the second year would be the utilization of an existing provider doing pre-charge diversion, and the third year an evaluation on the success of the program.

Nestebly noted that, in recent years, OJJDP has taken a slightly different direction. In most every grant, they are prioritizing a focus on rural and/or high poverty areas which could be beneficial to Iowa. In looking at data, complaints by gender, county populations, and poverty, the number of complaints in rural counties over a one-year period were single digits for girls. It would be difficult to make a case for focusing on a rural county with such low numbers.

Tibbetts asked if there would be more funding in the future for diversion, especially in light of the Family First Act. Nestebly responded that she was unsure if pre-charge diversion would be included in the future.

Tibbetts thought the original idea fit well with the current revision of the “Healing Justice” publication and was encouraged to have the opportunity to train individuals throughout the state on female responsive services. She preferred pre-charge diversion be a future focus.

The discussion then focused on other organizations that could or should be involved with this task force. Those suggestions included Girl Scouts and 4-H. Stephanie Hernandez agreed to contact the Girl Scout organization in her area. She noted the work they have recently done with at-risk girls around self-esteem and empowerment. Bethany Kohoutek suggested contacting DHS to see if there were other programs/providers that could be recommended.

DMC Subcommittee update

Ford and Tibbetts noted the joint meeting between the DMC Subcommittee and this task force held on May 1. The meeting was facilitated by Andrew Allen, Chair, of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. The focus of the meeting was the need for services and reducing the overrepresentation of young black girls.

Dave Kuker provided an update on pre-charge diversion. Prior to the pandemic, there were a significant number of referrals to Juvenile Court Services for youth of color who weren't a danger to society. Work has focused on building a structure to keep kids who aren't dangerous or a risk to public safety away from the juvenile justice system. Some jurisdictions have done well—Scott and Johnson counties have formalized processes.

Over the past few months, an application has been developed to gather data on kids who are participating in the pre-charge diversion program. Kuker is working with Scott, Johnson, and Webster Counties and has held some discussions with Polk County. The purpose is to get a sense of what those kids look like and their level of success.

Healing Justice and related event work

Tibbetts reported that a Doodle poll had been set up to schedule a workgroup meeting to revamp the “Healing Justice” (protocol) publication. Nesteby provided further details and will try to schedule a meeting near the end of June/early July. A “to-do” list and assignments will be developed for members. The components of the document can be found online through Google Drive.

Tibbetts and Nesteby discussed a process to review the final draft. All DMC members were asked and several have volunteered.

Nesteby asked members to give some thought on the best way to share the publication. Due to COVID-19, an in-person event may need to be changed to a virtual training event. She asked for workshop topics and speaker suggestions.

Discussion included conducting a virtual overview/introduction with a formal training event held later.

Find Our Sisters

This item was not discussed.

Goals and Objectives

Due to time constraints, Tibbetts suggested this agenda item and the “Healing Justice” publication be the focus of the August meeting in preparation for the JJAC Retreat in September.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Membership

As previously discussed, the following groups were suggested as potential members: Girl Scouts, 4-H, Onelowa, NAACP, and other cultural groups with a youth focus.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
Iowa Department of Human Rights